

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0442

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LU, UR

SUBJECT: FURTHER LUXEMBOURG IMPRESSIONS OF GRAND
DUKE'S STATE VISIT TO USSR

REF: LUXEMBOURG 0439

1. ON JUNE 12 PRIME MINISTER'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT PAUL
HELMINGER TOLD DCM THAT TWO INCIDENTS HAD MARRED THE NEARLY
PERFECT ORGANIZATION AND GRACIOUSNESS WHICH CHARACTERIZED
SOVIET ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GRAND DUKE'S STATE VISIT
TO THE USSR.

2. FIRST INCIDENT AROSE WHEN SOVIET OFFICIALS VIGOROUSLY
PROTESTED TO LUXEMBOURG MFA REPRESENTATIVES THAT
"A MEMBER OF GOL DELEGATION" HAD BEEN SEEN DISTRIBUTING
MONEY TO SOVIET CITIZENS OUTSIDE MOSCOW CHURCH WHERE
GRAND DUKE WAS ATTENDING MASS IN ORDER TO ATTRACT A
CROWD FOR WESTERN JOURNALISTS TO PHOTOGRAPH WHEN GRAND
DUKE LEFT CHURCH. GOL OFFICIALS IMMEDIATELY DETERMINED
THAT GUILTY PARTY WAS MRS. YVONNE FRISCH-URBANY,
LUXEMBOURG COMMUNIST JOURNALIST AND DAUGHTER OF PCL
PRESIDENT, WHO, RESPONDING TO REQUEST OF PASSERSBY FOR
SOUVENIRS FROM LUXEMBOURG, DISTRIBUTED HALF A DOZEN ONE-
FRANC PIECES (VALUE 2 3/4 CENTS EACH) WITH EFFIGY OF GRAND
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DUKE. WHEN THIS EXPLANATION WAS PROVIDED SOVIET OFFICIALS,

THEY REACTED WITH INTENSE EMBARRASSMENT AS DID MRS. FRISCH-URBANY.

3. SECOND INCIDENT WAS CONSTANT SOVIET SEARCHING THROUGH PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS OF LUXEMBOURG JOURNALISTS WHENEVER THESE WERE OUT OF SIGHT. EXCEPT FOR A JUNIOR OFFICIAL OF THE LUXEMBOURG MINISTRY OF CULTURE WHO HAD HIS VALISE REPACKED (BADLY) IN A MOSCOW HOTEL, THE REST OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY WAS APPARENTLY NOT SUBJECTED TO PHYSICAL SEARCHES.

4. ALTHOUGH THESE INCIDENTS WERE MINOR IN THEMSELVES, AND THE LUXEMBOURGERS DID NOT OFFICIALLY PROTEST THEM, HELMINGER SAID THAT THEY SERVED TO REMIND THORN AND HIS PARTY THAT THE SURFACE LIBERALIZATION APPARENT IN THE USSR DOES NOT GO AS DEEPLY AS SOME SOVIET AND WESTERN OBSERVERS ALLEGE. FARKAS

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